



THE NW MISSOURIAN WINTER SPORTS '10 PREVIEW



INSIDE

**Bearcats start with
clean slate- Page 5>>**

**<< MHS hits the
hardwood- Page 2**



SENIOR POINT GUARD Molly Stiens drives past a Mid-Buchanan oponent on her way to the hoop. Stiens and the remaining Spoofhound seniors hope to make a trip back to Columbia this spring.



FILE PHOTO

Gadbois highlights returners

BY BRYCE MERENESS
 Missourian Reporter

The Spoofhound girls' basketball team is preparing for another season after a third place showing last year.

The performance in the State Tournament left the 'Hounds hungry for more. Head coach Grant Hageman said last year's performance "fueled the fire".

"I think the girls feel like they have a lot to prove this year," Hageman said. "Obviously, the experience we had last year at the end of the postseason kind of fueled our fire into the summer, and the start of basketball. So far there has been a lot of energy. I am very encouraged by the effort."

The 'Hounds hope for a return trip to the state playoffs, but will have to do it without the Class of 2010.

The 'Hounds lost four key seniors off of last year's squad, Meridee Scott, Emily Kisker, Tracy Jensen and Hailey Kenkel.

"Well you don't replace a group like that," Hageman said. "They started playing when they were freshmen and played a lot of varsity basketball, probably the most number of games of any group that has come through here. I don't think we are going to look to try to replace them."

With the second week of practice wrapping up, goals for the 2010-11 season are still a work in progress, just like the team.

"I think there are unwritten goals for this group because we are together so much," Hageman said. "We're not focused on the big picture yet. We're just taking everything one day at a time, because this is kind of a different

team this year. They know that the coaches have high expectations, and the coaches understand that the girls have very high expectations, but we are going to be careful to not put too much pressure on ourselves. We're just going to take it one day at a time and get better step by step and I think in the long run that's going to be great for this group."

Senior Taylor Gadbois wants another shot at the playoffs, and hopes her contributions lay a strong foundation for the future.

"We want to prove to people that we want this just as much as we did last year and the year before that," Gadbois said. "We've worked hard for it, we just get the young girls up into it like we've all done, making them want it just as much as we do the next year, keep the program going, keeping it alive."

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FILE PHOTO

SENIOR GUARD TYLER Peve makes his way to the basket against Bishop LeBlond last season. Peve is one of seven seniors on this years' squad.

Kuwitzky expects big things

BY JASON LAWRENCE
Missourian Reporter

Topping a 21-5 record and a sixth place finish in the state is not an easy task to duplicate. That is fine with head coach Mike Kuwitzky, who thinks this team can build on last season.

"We always set our goals high," Kuwitzky said. "We like to set them as high as we can. We always set our main goal as winning districts and going to State. That's our ultimate goal."

"I think we have the capability of doing that, but I think we're going to have to develop as a team and create an identity."

The Spoofhounds will have to do it without the five seniors that formed the starting lineup, including Keenan Joiner who signed to play for Southwestern Community College in

Creston, Iowa.

"They'll be hard to replace," Kuwitzky said. "You have size, ball handlers and you have shooters. Those are three tough areas to replace."

The Spoofhounds will rely heavily on senior Tyler Peve, after being a situational starter and the sixth man last season. Peve is one of seven seniors this year.

"Even though we are going to have seven seniors leading this year's team, they don't have a tremendous amount of varsity experience," Kuwitzky said. "They've been in the program, I think they'll be fine. This is their team now. This is their year."

While this team lacks height and varsity playing experience, they do not lack a perimeter game or guards that like to shoot it from deep.

"What we're hoping for is that we

can play as a team," Kuwitzky said. "I think we can be a fairly good shooting team and I think we can be a fairly good ball-handling team. So, I think it will have to be a team that is going to rely a lot on teamwork. Not as much inside work, but more perimeter play."

"We're probably not going to have any true post players. We're going to go into a motion offense."

The Spoofhounds kick off its season and unveil the new style of offense Nov. 29 at the Savannah Varsity Tournament in Savannah.

"We're excited to get started," Kuwitzky said. "I think all of the boys are excited to play. There's a lot of enthusiasm. I think we're going to have good numbers. Everybody is going to work hard and we're going to try and have an enjoyable, successful season."

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Gabby Curtis

DeShaun Cooper



Elijah Allen



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Arunas Simanavicius

Steinmeyer watches slow start

BY SPENCER SCHULTZ
Missourian Reporter

In the words of women's basketball head coach Gene Steinmeyer, the one thing every team strives for is being the team that everyone remembers.

Unfortunately, the women's

basketball team is going to have to do this without star forward Gentry Dietz until second semester due to eligibility requirements.

But even with the poor defensive play during preseason scrimmages and the loss of Dietz until second semester, Steinmeyer believes his team is having a slow start to the season.

"I've never had a decent scrimmage against a Division I team. I'm not sure it shows anything or tells anything," Steinmeyer said.

"I think you just have to go off of past history and past rosters."

The Bearcats opened the season Monday against Nebraska-Kearney in Bearcat Arena.

McCollum searches for energy

BY KYLE HENDRICKS
Missourian Reporter

The Northwest men's basketball team has just two seniors on this year's roster, but head coach Ben McCollum believes that the youth will help the program.

"It helps the program as the whole," McCollum said. "Because those fresh-

men will play together for four or five years, and we'll develop some leadership out of that. I think it hinders you early in this season because it takes time for those freshmen to learn and to develop."

In just his first year coaching at his alma mater, McCollum led the Bearcats to within one victory of qualifying for the MIAA tournament last

season.

Senior forward Elijah Allen knows he needs to be a more vocal leader this year.

"I'm a lead by example guy," Allen said. "But I'm working on becoming more vocal, especially during practice, and with off the court activities, staying there for my teammates and answering questions when they have them."

COACH'S CORNER



"I've never had a decent scrimmage against a Division I team. I'm not sure it shows anything or tells anything.

-head coach Gene Steinmeyer

"We're just trying to take it one day at a time. Our goal is to compete in the league and with a young team it'll be tough at first, but I expect them to get better throughout the season."

- head coach Ben McCollum



Twaddle, Zech next in line to lead

BY TONY BOTTS
 Sports Editor

Gone are three individual State Championships and a senior class with an ample amount of irreplaceable mat experience.

"(Last year's seniors) have been such a dominant force that a lot of kids haven't come out, because they didn't want to sit on JV," head coach Joe Drake said. "So, now we're kind of left with no one waiting in the wings to step up and take their place."

This winter, the Spoofhounds will face a difficult challenge of piecing together a lineup with a lack of seniors and abundance of sophomores returning from their

freshman campaign.

However, among those sophomores is Jordan Zech, who gained experience at the State meet last season and the lone senior Will Twaddle.

"(Last year's seniors) was a group of guys we knew we'd miss, because there are so many in that class that wrestled.

"This year we just don't have a lot of upperclassmen," Twaddle said. "We're just going to have to rely on the young guys to come in and step up."

As opposed to years' past, the wrestling room will not be missing the athletes who also play football, as the 'Hounds fell in the second round of the playoffs.



FILE PHOTO

SOPHOMORE JORDAN ZECH controls the top position against a Savannah wrestler. Zech is the teams sole returning state qualifer from last year.

"It's always a benefit the more practice you get in before your first match," Drake said. "...We'll pick them up now and have a little more time. They'll be much more prepared for that opening match than we have in the last couple of years."

While Twaddle admits he wishes he were still playing football, the early end to the football season allows Drake and the team to shape the starting lineup sooner, rather than later.

Unfortunately, Drake will have fewer names this season, as num-

bers are down for the time being, to fill out the 14 weight classes.

"Our squad's going to be much smaller this year than in the past," Drake said. "Our numbers are really down, but we're going to take the boys that we have and do the best we can."

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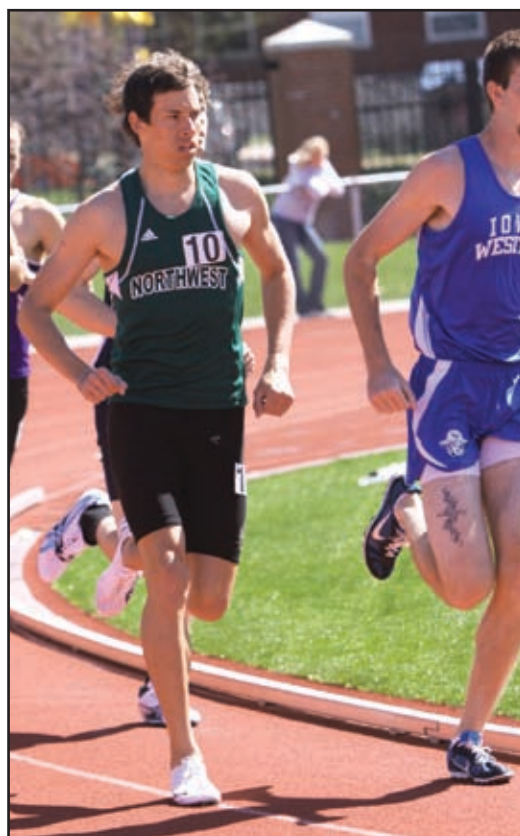
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All-Americans pace team goals

BY KYLE HENDRICKS
Missourian Reporter

The Northwest indoor track team prepares to expand on last season's success when three Bearcats were selected as All-Americans. The season kicks off Dec. 10 at the Iowa State Holiday Preview in Ames, Iowa.

The 'Cats will return three key members from last year's team. Sophomore Angela Adams, senior Kate Walter and junior Tyler Shaw.

Shaw placed second in the 60-meter hurdles at the NCAA Indoor Track Championships last season with a time of 8 minutes, six seconds.

Shaw is the sixth Bearcat to earn All-America honors in back-to-back seasons and the first to do so since E.J. Falkner finished third and sixth in the 200-meter dash in 2005 and

2006, respectively.

Head coach Scott Lorek believes that Shaw has started to become a leader on the team.

"One of the things with Tyler is that he has really become a great team leader," Lorek said. "He has really developed into that role and I'm excited about what he brings to the team when football season is over... The other thing is that we're looking to expand his event into the 400-meter hurdles."

Shaw believes he needs to be a leader, not only by leading by example on the track, but by letting his teammates know he is there for them.

"I'm always here for my teammates," Shaw said. "If they have questions about technique, form or want to know how to train better I'm pretty much there to answer those questions and to let them know that

I've got their back."

Along with Shaw, Northwest also returns Adams. She placed ninth in the 5,000-meter run at the NCAA Indoor Championships last season. Adams finished in a time of 17:30.31, less than two seconds behind Morgan Place of Minnesota-Duluth.

Lorek believes the girls will turn to Adams and Walter for leadership in the upcoming season.

"Kate is definitely the leader for the girls," Lorek said. "She's been there before and we need someone with experience to step up because we are so young. I think Kate has a chance for a track career beyond college. Angela is the lead by example type, her body of work speaks for itself."

Lorek expects many of the freshmen to redshirt, but he has high hopes for the few that do not redshirt and the redshirt freshmen from last year.

FILE PHOTO

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Men’s basketball

Nov. 18	Graceland	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	Baker	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	Southwest Minnesota State	3 p.m.
Dec. 1	Emporia State*	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Washburn*	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Pittsburg State*	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Nebraska-Omaha*	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Fort Hays State*	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	Lincoln*	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Missouri Western*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Truman*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Central Missouri*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Southwest Baptist*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Missouri Southern*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Emporia State*	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Washburn*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Fort Hays State*	4 p.m.
Feb. 2	Nebraska-Omaha*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Pittsburg State*	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Lincoln*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Missouri Western*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Truman*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	Central Missouri*	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	Southwest Baptist*	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	Missouri Southern*	3 p.m.
Mar. 3-6	MIAA Tournament	TBA

(shaded areas reference home games)
(* references Conference games)

Women’s basketball

Nov. 19-20	Winstead-Reeves Classic	TBA
Nov. 19	Southwestern (Kan.)	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	William Jewell	TBA
Nov. 27	Peru State	TBA
Dec. 1	Emporia State*	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Washburn*	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Pittsburg State*	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Nebraska-Omaha*	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	Fort Hays State*	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	Lincoln*	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Missouri Western*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Truman*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Central Missouri*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	Southwest Baptist*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Missouri Southern*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Emporia State*	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Washburn*	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Fort Hays State*	2 p.m.
Feb. 2	Nebraska-Omaha*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Pittsburg State*	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Lincoln*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Missouri Western*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Truman*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	Central Missouri*	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	Southwest Baptist*	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	Missouri Southern*	1 p.m.
Mar. 3-6	MIAA Tournament	TBA

(shaded areas reference home games)
(* references Conference games)

Indoor track & field

Dec. 11
Iowa State Holiday Pre-view Ames, Iowa

Dec. 11-12
Nebraska-Kearney
Heptathlon/Pentathlon
Kearney, Neb.

Jan. 15-16
Nebraska Holiday Inn
Invitational Lincoln, Neb.

Jan. 22
Nebraska-Wesleyan
Invitational (hosted by
Nebraska) Lincoln, Neb.

Jan. 30-31
Doane Janvrin Multi
Events Crete, Neb.

Feb. 5
Central Missouri Mule
Relays (Women) War-
rensburg, Mo.

Feb. 6
Central Missouri Mule
Relays (Men) Warrens-
burg, Mo.

Feb. 12-13
Iowa State Classic (select
runners) Ames, Iowa

Feb. 19
Central Missouri Classic
Warrensburg, Mo.

Feb. 26-28
MIAA Championships
(hosted by Missouri
Southern) Joplin, Mo.

March 12-13
NCAA Championships
(hosted by Adams State
College & the Alberquer-
que Convention & Visi-
tors Bureau) Albuquerque,
N.M

Boys’ basketball

(shaded areas reference home games)

Nov. 29-Dec. 04	Savannah Varsity Tournament	TBA
Dec. 2	Savannah	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Clarinda	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Tarkio	7 p.m.
Dec. 10	Benton	5 p.m.
Dec. 14	South Harrison Co. R-II	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Jefferson	7 p.m.
Dec. 20-12/31 N.C.	Missouri College Shootout	TBA
Jan. 3	Chillicothe	5 p.m.
Jan. 7	Savannah	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Falls City	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Auburn	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 14	Falls City	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 17-22	Basehor-Linwood Tournament	TBA
Jan. 25	Lafayette	5 p.m.
Jan. 27	East Buchanan	5 p.m.
Feb. 1	LeBlond	5 p.m.
Feb. 4	Smithville	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Mid Buchanan	5 p.m.
Feb. 10	Benton	5 p.m.
Feb. 18	Savannah	5 p.m.
Feb. 22	Cameron	5:30 p.m.

Girls’ basketball

Nov. 29-Dec. 4	Savannah Tournament	TBA
Dec. 7	Lafayette	5 p.m.
Dec. 9	Tarkio	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	Hamilton	6 p.m.
Dec. 14	South Harrison Co. R-II	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	Jefferson	6 p.m.
Dec. 27-29	LeBlond Holiday Tournament	TBA
Jan. 7	Lafayette	5 p.m.
Jan. 11	Mid Buchanan	5 p.m.
Jan. 14	Falls City	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 18	Auburn	5 p.m.
Jan. 20	Clarinda	7 p.m.
Jan. 24	Notre Dame De Sion	6 p.m.
Jan. 31	Lathrop	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Smithville	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	Chillicothe	5 p.m.
Feb. 10	Benton	5 p.m.
Feb. 15	Nebraska City	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Savannah	5:30 pm.
Feb. 22	Cameron	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	LeBlond	5:30 p.m.

(shaded areas reference home games)